



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Gerry Broderick

Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

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LAKEFRONT PARKING METERS, SEASONAL WORKERS STRIPPED FROM BUDGET

County Board focuses on Parks preservation and maintenance in 2009 Milwaukee County Budget

Milwaukee, WI – In the 2009 County Budget adopted last week, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors voted to restore more than \$3 million to the Parks Department, including funding for multiple parks maintenance, community center, special events and horticulturalist positions that were abolished in the County Executive's proposal.

Last Monday, the Board voted to restore 48 full-time Park Maintenance Worker positions and reject the County Executive's plan to add more seasonal staffers. "In recent years, the Board has already approved major reductions in full-time staff, transitioning to more seasonal workers. We feel we're already at the optimal mix of full-time and seasonal staffing," said Supervisor Gerry Broderick, Chairman of the County Board's Parks, Energy and Environment Committee.

The plan to add parking meters along Lincoln Memorial Drive was also stripped from the budget. "Adding parking fees at the lakefront would be a major barrier that would make Lake Michigan less accessible for residents," Supervisor Broderick said. "Our vote on this issue makes it clear that our lakefront should be free and open to the public." The Board also froze swimming pool fees at the 2008 levels and scaled back increases to golf courses fees and slip fees at McKinley Marina.

"With almost 15,000 acres, Milwaukee County has one of the largest parks systems in the country, but the County Executive continues to ignore deferred parks maintenance needs, which have escalated to more than \$300 million dollars," Supervisor Broderick added. "We're trying to reverse that. If the County Executive vetoes the Board's decision to preserve our parks and address these maintenance needs, those vetoes will likely be overridden."

The County Board will consider any vetoes from the County Executive in reference to the 2009 County Budget on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.